Cash payment for girl education and health

†73. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of cash payment for girl education and health is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether her Ministry is also contemplating to provide employment to the girls during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether Government are making "Palna Yojana" to stop foeticide; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken by Government for ensuring proper upbringing of these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Working Group on "Development of Children" for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007—2012) has been constituted by the Planning Commission in April, 2006. This Working Group under the Chairperonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and other experts will review the existing approach and programmes for children and suggest suitable initiatives and programmes for the survival, protection, welfare and dvelopment of children including the girl child. The deliberations of these Working Groups will serve as an input into the Steering Committee Report of the Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Steering Committee would form the basis for the programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Eleventh Plan.

Malnourished children

74. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to UN Report, India accounts for 57 million of the world's 146 million malnourished children;

(b) if so, whether India, Nepal and Bangladesh have got highest malnourished children;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government have studied the report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition, No. 4, May, 2006", 39.04% of the underweight children under 5 year in the World are from India.

(b) As per the Report, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are reported to have highest number of malnourished children.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam, Extent of the malnutrition among children mentioned in this Report appears to be based on National Family Health Survey-2: (1998-1999). As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) the extent of malnutrition among children declined from 53.4% in 1992-93 to 47% in 1998-1999. Thrid round of NFHS is currently underway and findings are likely to be available by March, 2007.

(e) There is constant emphasis on States to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms and ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

Some of the steps taken in the recent past include:

* Expansion of the ICDS scheme.
* Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.
* Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/ UTs. It is further proposed to
* Ensure universal access of ICDS services through operationalization of 466 Projects and 1.88 lakhs Anganwadi centres sanctioned in 2005-06.
* Disseminate the guidelines contained in the 2nd edition of the National Guidelines of Infant & Young Child Feeding, on the importance of optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding practices in ensuring child survival, growth and development.

* Intensify nutrition advocacy of the policy markers, nutrition orientation of the programme managers and capacity building of the field functionaries on nutrition.

Funds under Balika Samridhi Yojana

75. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reports that the Union Government is not releasing requisite amount to the State Governments under the Balika Samridhi Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which outstanding amount is likely to be released, state-wise;

(c) the total amount released by Government under the 'Post Birth Grant for Girl Child' during each of the two years and thereafter in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the funds proposed to be released under this scheme during 2006-07 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) No. Sir, The Planning Commission has proposed to transfer Balika Samridhi Yojana to the State/UTs. Therefore no funds have been earmarked for the scheme for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.

RE. DEMAND FOR DISCUSSION ON MUMBAI BLASTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, my submission is that the discussion on the Mumbai blasts issue should be taken up immediately because the entire country is not in a mood to listen to any other subject. They want that this serious issue of the terrorist attack should be taken up first. So, this being an important issue, my request is that it should be taken up immediately for discussion. I don' t think that anybody in this House is against a discussion on the Mumbai blasts issue. Therefore, our appeal is that this should be taken up for discussion immediately. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for us to participate in the debate. We cannot